



Foggy Bottom News

May 1999

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 41, No.7

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The "Foggy Bottom Views" exhibition of paintings by Bill D'Italia continues at the Watergate Gallery from its April 23 opening until mid-June. Browsing -- and buying -- are encouraged.

FBA Records Show "Pioneer" Members

The 40th anniversary of the FBA prompted research into longtime members, and according to membership lists, three of our neighbors held membership even before the association's incorporation, and do so until today. They are **John Bobbitt**, **Morella Hansen**, and **Samuel Harrington**, who are listed as members as long ago as 1958. The next most faithful members (a couple of years' records are missing) are **Dorothy Bunevich**, **Mary Healy**, **Jack Olender**, **Inez Pulver**, and **Alex Wiskup** who appear on the 1962 membership roster.

A tip of our collective hats to these fine Foggy Bottom folks, whose interest in the neighborhood has not diminished over the years.

Foggy Bottom in the 1970s

By Rick Churchill

The Channel House was a festering sore in the middle of the neighborhood and came to symbolize all that went wrong in Foggy Bottom in the 1970s. Wedged in between row homes on New Hampshire Avenue, this "modern mediocre" structure was ugly, out of balance and its owners, frankly, just weren't very nice. The Channel House's only redeeming quality was that it provided more apartments in Foggy Bottom.

Even this benefit became perverted, however, when the Channel House began renting second floor units to prostitutes on an hourly basis. Soon the late night noise and the attraction of other unwholesome elements made the mere mention of its name a rallying cry for change in Foggy Bottom. But in pre-home rule days there were few places to protest. One was the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. When the Board reviewed the Channel House liquor license, angry FBA members packed the Board's hearing room. As it often did in these days, however, the Board recorded the FBA complaints and approved the license.

FBA Victim of success

In a sense, Foggy Bottom was a victim of its own success. When it was a slum, no bank or big developer would touch it. By the 1970s Foggy Bottom became too valuable for renters to live there. Large apartment building owners found

see 1970s on p. 6

UPDATE

BZA Hospital Hearing Continued

At the April 7 hearing by the Board of Zoning Adjustment, testimony was given by hospital witnesses concerning the facade of the building, and its traffic consultant testified again concerning traffic, the loading dock, and the new report from the Department of Public Works which followed discussions between DPW and the hospital. Before a room filled with Foggy Bottom residents and white-coated hospital personnel, Matthew Watson, the attorney for the ANC, plied the traffic consultant with a long series of questions on cross-examination.

ANC Commissioner Steven Mandelbaum, a
see UPDATE on p. 2

Let the Parties Begin — and End!

With spring in Foggy Bottom come the flowers, tourists and nicer weather, but it also brings two dreaded arrivals: pollen (by those afflicted), and student parties. The *News* has no relief to offer for the former, but repeats a recent article dealing with noisy neighbors, both by students and non-students.

Party Too Noisy? Call 727-1010

Once you have asked noisy neighbors to quiet
see Let the Parties.... on p. 3

Historian Ogilvie To Speak April 26

The featured speaker at the April 26 Foggy Bottom Association meeting will be Phil W. Ogilvie, Washington historian and current president of the Oldest Inhabitants of D. C. He will "Getting Along With the Landlord When It's the Federal Government: A Local History." He explores the sometimes stormy relationship between the wants of the Federal government and the needs of the people who live and work in the city. Ogilvie came to Washington as the Public Records Administrator of the District of Columbia, serving as the city's official historian. He served in that role for over 15 years, and continues his active interest in the city in his role with the Oldest Inhabitants and in consulting work for various clients in D. C. history and related subjects.

St. Mary's Court Marks 20th Year

A standing-room only audience was on hand for the April 11 celebration of the 20th anniversary of St. Mary's Court, Foggy Bottom's facility providing safe and affordable housing for elderly and handicapped persons. A distinguished list of speakers described the founding and evolution of the project, including an emotional presentation by Ruth Matthews, a resident for the full 20-year span.

A letter from Hillary Clinton was read, and Virginia Williams represented her son, the mayor. Among the other speakers were Episcopal Bishop Ronald Haines, Federal Housing Commissioner William Apgar, and Ward 2
see 20th, on p. 2

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome
Speaker:

Phil W. Ogilvie
Washington Historian

*Getting Along With The Landlord When It's The
Federal Government: A Local History*

Monday, April 26, 1999

Wyndham Bristol Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next Meeting, Monday, April 24, 1999)

update, from page 1

GWU student and from the Single Member District containing the hospital, requested permission to testify and be granted party status. The BZA Chair declined, ruling that no new witnesses were to be permitted this far into the proceedings; only clarification and rebuttal to former testimony were allowed. Mandelbaum noted that he had not been sworn in as a commissioner for the January hearing; Mandelbaum was a commissioner at the time of the February and March BZA hearings but did not attend either.

The case was continued until April 22, at which time DPW officials are expected to testify a second time; they have not testified since their second report filed in February reversing many of the recommendations made at the January hearing.

Red Cross Excavation Approved by NCPC Building Plans Not Yet Approved

The National Capital Planning Commission on April 8 approved the application of the American Red Cross to begin demolition of its current building and excavations for a new building to replace its his-

toric structure at 2025 E Street, N.W. Despite considerable local opposition, the Commission, including the members representing the District, voted for it. Voting for it were NCPC members representing the Mayor's office, the D. C. Council, and the Office of Planning. This approval was granted despite the fact that the plans for the building have not yet been approved. The NCPC is the "zoning approval" agency for property in the city under federal jurisdiction.

Local opposition centers on the bulk and height of the proposed building, which will eliminate the existing green space in the front, and back up to several residential buildings. Rising to 20-30 feet above its neighboring structures, it will effectively block their light and air. A major cause of uncertainty is the lack of approval of the building plans, which the Red Cross stated may change, and the fact that the Red Cross' traffic study was done three years ago, casting serious doubt as to its accuracy. In addition, the Red Cross plans include substantial electronic equipment, opposed by FB resident Marija Hughes and others concerned about disturbances caused by such equipment.

Foggy Bottom News

Testimony for opponents was led by Barbara Kahlow for the West End Citizens Association. ANC Chair Barbara Spillinger presented the ANC resolution; others testifying were ANC Commissioner Dorothy Miller, former ANC Commissioner Sara Maddux, and residents Laetitia Combrinck and Patrick Sheary. Six residential buildings with 1200 units, the York, Empire, Monroe House, Statesman, Letterman, and Potomac Park, will be affected by the proposed building.

Among the witnesses in favor of the Red Cross project were Chris Lamb, former FBA president and Red Cross vice president, and Dale Barnhart, local real estate businessman and former ANC Commissioner. ANC Commissioner Steven Mandelbaum was listed as a witness for the project but did not appear.

NCPC Denies Bell Atlantic's Towers

At its April 8 hearing, the National Capital Planning Commission put on hold the application of Bell Atlantic Mobile to place telecommunications towers (for cellular phones) in Rock Creek Park. A lengthy list of opposition testimony and letters led the federal agency to decide on further study. Marija Hughes of Foggy Bottom testified for herself and for the Electromagnetic Radiation Network. Others in opposition were Eleanor Holmes Norton, Elizabeth Noel of the Office of the People's Counsel, and D. C. Corporation Counsel John M. Ferren.

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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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To place ads, call Olga Corey at 337-3196. Cost for classified ads is 60c per word; a 2-inch high by 2 column wide (or 4-inch by 1-column) ad — the smallest available — is \$38.50.

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20th, from p. 1

Councilmember Jack Evans. Joseph Howell, Treasurer of St. Mary's Board, quoted then Bishop Walker, who happily commented that "when you can get the Episcopal Church, the D. C. government and the Federal government to cooperate, you definitely have proof of the existence of God!" Those three institutions' cooperation enabled the senior center to become a reality.

Mary Healy, longtime Foggy Bottom resident and a member of the team which originally helped plan the project, praised the community members as well as the institutional representatives, for tenacity and teamwork. Mentioned specifically were Dick Palco, Hal Davitt, and the late Al Cottrell; she also gave great credit to the late Councilmember John Wilson for his constant efforts on behalf of the building.

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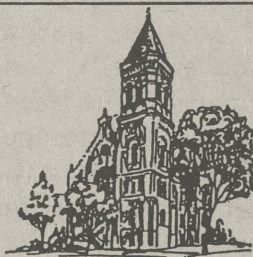
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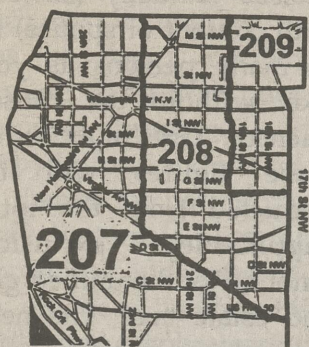
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News from 2D



Washington Times "Covers" Commader Cockett

The *Washington Times* Metropolitan Times section featured 2nd District Commander Shannon Cockett in its April 12 cover story. Cockett was named to the district's top post in January, after serving there as a captain and acting commander during her predecessor's leave of absence. There are 280 employees at 2D, which includes Foggy Bottom/West End at its southeast corner, part of downtown, Georgetown and then runs northwest almost to the Maryland line.

The writer related that while Commander Cockett was working on the Hill for Senator Inouye she was mugged three times and her home was burglarized. Following the last instance officers suggested she consider police work; that was about 18 years ago. She

indicated that TV dramatizes only certain parts of police work. "It's part being a social worker and helping people with their problems, [along with] on-the-spot marital counseling and adjudicating disputes among people" is her description of her job.

Commander Cockett lives in Manor Park and has a 13-year old daughter who she says does not seem to show any interest in police work at present.

District Adds Three Detectives

As expected under the MPD's decentralization of operations, three detectives have joined Detective Lieutenant Joseph Trippi's department at 2D. The transfer from police headquarters took effect on Sunday, April 11. For the last several months, according to Sergeant Robert Panizari, the offices of the detective squad have been undergoing remodeling (and sprucing up) in preparation for the added personnel. In addition to more office space, the project includes a new holding cell and interview rooms. Panizari formerly was in PSA 207; Sergeant John Rucker, Jr., formerly of PSA 208, and a new detective sergeant, Michael Farris, share his responsibilities.

March Crime Numbers Up Slightly

Led by an increase in thefts from auto, offenses in PSA 207 increased in March to 41 offenses, up from 26 in February. There were 4 thefts from auto (TFA) in February, the first time for a single digit report; in March 11 were reported. As parking by careless tourists increases near the monuments, incidents will probably increase as well. In March, 207 experienced 4 robberies, 2 burglaries, 12 thefts and 4 stolen autos.

PSA 208 had 84 offenses in March, up from 78 in February. Theft in March, mostly from non-residential premises, numbered 32, down from 42 in February. There were also 1 robbery, 1 assault, 6 burglaries, 28 TFAs, and 5 stolen autos.

MPO Hicks of 208 reported at the West End Citizens Association that a female student who reported a sexual assault in one of the dorms had later denied the crime had happened.

Phone Numbers to Remember

Police Emergency 911
Crimes in progress, medical needs, dangerous situations, fires
Police Non-Emergency 727-1010
Disturbances, suspicious persons or circumstances
Second District
Main number 282-0070
PSA Lieutenants

and Sergeants 282-0050
Detectives 282-0043
Captains and Commander 282-0032

Party, from p.1

down, the officers of the Second District should be called if the disturbances continue. D. C. Law is clear: "It is the declared public policy of the District that every person is entitled to ambient noise levels that are not detrimental to life, health, and enjoyment of his or her property." One section of the law, D. C. Act 11-297, prohibits "noise disturbance by the operation, use, or playing of any musical instrument or device, loud speaker, or other similar device...on private property or public space."

According to the law, the "quiet hour" is 10:00 p.m. Later hours, e.g., 11:00 on weeknights or midnight on weekends, seem more reasonable to most residents. Because there are few GWU classes on Fridays, a weeknight favored in Foggy Bottom for parties is Thursday.

Section 13 of the act states: "Any person aggrieved by a violation of any provision of this act may complain to the Metropolitan Police Department which shall enforce the provisions of this Act." It further states that an MPD officer may give a verbal warning and allow a reasonable time for the offenders to cease violating the act. Further, it

allows "a fine not to exceed \$300 or imprisonment not to exceed 10 days, or both."

An official of PSA 207 told the *News* that his officers usually get the desired result by "a verbal warning." However, if the officers must return to stop the noise disturbance, the offenders may be fined and/or arrested.

Lt. Pat Burke, who had responsibility for Burlieth and upper Georgetown, had a stricter policy. His officers often assessed fines, and Georgetown University encouraged the police to report offending students, and would assign community service "penalties." There is no comparable program at George Washington University, which denies responsibility for student activities outside the campus. However, if the disturbance is within the campus, call the GWU Police at 994-6110.

In both PSA 207 and 208, usually two officers and cars are on duty, even on the midnight shift. They are there to be available to residents; do not fail to take full advantage of them. If officers fail to respond, call again. The 727-1010 number is the city-wide police communications line; noise can be less crucial to a police operator than other crimes, but 207's and 208's officers should be sent to help residents in those areas.



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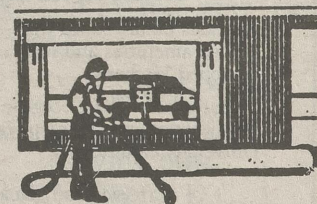
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Foggy Bottom Folks

Just last month we read in *Washingtonian Magazine* that Shepherdstown, West Virginia, is a most attractive small town for settling down. In March, Al and Karen Ingle took it to heart, and are leaving in early May for that community. Al will serve as Vice President for Administration and Finance at Shepherd College, a 4-year, liberal arts college of about 4000 students. His letter indicates he will also teach and Karen "will have the opportunity to continue her work in counseling administration and development counseling." Al has been Associate Vice President for Business Affairs at GWU, and they lived on 25th Street. Part of his work over the past several years has involved interacting with the community on various GWU

building projects, especially the Health & Wellness Center, about to be built. Karen has been Vice President of the West End Citizens Association.

Our intrepid *Foggy Bottom News* deliverer Janet Axtell took a "leave of absence" from those duties last month to join an Elderhostel trip to a bunch of Hawaiian islands. Earlier she had suffered some kind of digestive problem, but sent the ailment packing in time to have a wonderful very Western vacation. Janet has delivered a total of 600 copies of the *FBNews* every month for over 15 years. She has had three "leaves of absence" in that time and we've had to dock her big paycheck each time (that's a joke, believe me).

Another faithful *FBNews* deliverer is Patrick Cody

who lived in Snows Court and made sure his neighbors received the paper each month. But he no longer is in the Court, and now is the proud owner of a house in the 2400 block of I Street.

Erica Meier is a Foggy Bottom resident who works for Laughlin, Marinaccio & Owens Advertising in Arlington. She recently took on senior account executive responsibilities for the Air National Guard account. Earlier Meier lived and worked in Hawaii, working for clients such as the Maui Visitors Bureau and Bank of America.

How does anyone keep track of them? Nothing seems to change names as often as hotels (and Foggy Bottom has about 18 hotels, did you know that?) The latest in the trend are the One Washington Circle Hotel which will change to the Starwood Hotels & Resorts' W brand later this year, and the Sheraton City Centre on New Hampshire has become the Wyndham City Centre Hotel (with new, very bright blue above-the-window treatments). Watergate added the Swissotel name, the Westin became ANA and then the Washington Monarch, Guest Quarters changed to Doubletree, Howard Johnson to The Premier, and the Grand to The Westin. Soon a Ritz-Carlton will be added.

One morning several weeks ago the hotels staged open houses especially for taxi drivers, featuring coffee and donuts and special maps showing the hotels with old AND new names.

The hotel folks are a-changing also: Cindy Brown, catering manager of the Wyndham Bristol, is moving to another Wyndham property downtown. Succeeding her will be Staci Begal (legal but with a B, she says). New at the Washington Monarch (nee Westin, then ANA), are Thom Puccio as Director of Marketing and Carole Statland as Director of Catering.

Estate Planning Steps Outlined

By Joseph O'Donnell, CFA

The first step in the estate planning process is to take an inventory of your assets. They should be described precisely, preferably listed on a spreadsheet with cost, date of purchase, current value, title, beneficiaries, etc. Don't forget to include the equity in your home and cash value of your life insurance.

Next, you should prepare or update your will, making sure that it reflects your current intentions and lists specific bequests of personal property in detail. You will also need to name an executor to settle your estate, and you may need to name one or more trustees. If you die without a will ("intestate"), your assets will be distributed according to state law. An attorney who specializes in this field should be consulted. He may recommend a Revocable ("Living") Trust to avoid probate. Probate is a court-supervised process that may be time-consuming and makes one's private financial affairs public.

Testamentary trusts may also be appropriate, depending on the amount of your assets, family relationships, and other considerations. Examples include the Irrevocable Trust, Marital Trust, and Charitable Trusts. Your attorney can explain the

benefits and drawbacks of these and other trusts.

You may make gifts of \$10,000 annually (\$20,000 with consent of spouse) to as many persons as you like, without tax consequences. Gifts of excess of these figures will be deducted from the total "applicable exclusion amount" of the unified gift and estate tax. The new amounts are as follows:

Year	Exclusion Amount
1999	\$650,000
2000	675,000
2001	675,000
2002	700,000
2003	700,000
2004	850,000
2005	950,000
2006	1,000,000

Since estate taxes range from 37% to 55% on amounts exceeding the above exclusions, you should consider making gifts, donating to charity, and/or establishing trusts to minimize or eliminate these onerous taxes if your assets are sufficiently large.

Other parts of an estate plan may include Power of Attorney, Medical Directive and Proxy ("Living Will"), and beneficiary designations. As you can see, it is vitally important that you have expert counsel in these matters (and others not mentioned here).

As always, the above advice is general in nature and may not be appropriate for a given individual.



With each spring comes a wish the FBN was printed in color. But we know you can use your imagination and enjoy this scene.

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Viva Volunteers!

This begins a series on volunteer opportunities which exist within the confines of Foggy Bottom. They are taken from questionnaires prepared and sent by Jo Tucci and she has our thanks for her efforts. Foggy Bottom is a caring community and information on these handy sites should make volunteering not only worthwhile but easy as well. Watch this space over the rest of the year and choose one that's your cup of tea.

The United Church's Foggy Bottom Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month to

pack and hand out bags of groceries to low income residents. The pantry is open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. twice a month, when food items, especially non-perishables, are distributed.

The Pantry, of course, can always use cash donations as well as non-perishables such as canned goods, cereals, pasta, dried milk and the like. Call the Church at 331-1495.

Natural Day Care

Natural Day Care, located in the basement of St. Paul's Church, has a dedicated director and staff, who work long hours and have a variety of assistance needs. Among the help needed:

1. Classroom aides with



patience, the ability to understand the needs of pre-school-aged children, and to withstand their loud and full-of-life ways.

2. Persons with wood-working skills to repair and refinish shelves and other equipment.

3. Volunteer to help clean up the classroom.

4. Volunteers to help maintain, repair and upgrade the children's playground on 26th Street (see note below).

Cathy Miller, the director, can be reached at 338-6389,

and indicates that help is welcome anytime during the week, and she will work around any volunteer's schedule.

Special Note: Funds are coming to the FBA for refurbishing the 26th Street park and playground; urgently needed is a resident to oversee the spending of the funds on repair, landscaping and general beautification of both the playground and the park. It will involve contact with the Park and Recreation Department, which "owns" the park; contracting for fence repair, brickwork, and landscaping; and overseeing the work. This wonderful person should contact FBA President Ellie Becker at 337-5528.

TENAC Claims Landlords Rip Off Rent Control Law

The D. C. Tenants' Advocacy Coalition (TENAC) has strongly condemned landlords in the District for massive rent increases aimed at selective classes of tenants living in rental housing units all over the city. Using an arcane section of the District's landmark rent control law, landlords are selectively basing annual rent increases on grossly inflated rent "ceilings" instead of actual rents currently paid. "This is a gross perversion of the city's rent control law," according to TENAC Chairman Jim McGrath, "and just the latest landlord ploy to gut one of the most successful rental housing laws anywhere."

By law, landlords are entitled to an annual increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For many tenants living in efficiency or one-bedroom apartments, this should mean increases this year ranging from \$10 to \$25 on average per month. Instead, landlords have been imposing increases ranging from \$100 to \$175 per month on similarly situated units within the same buildings, based on crazily-adjusted "rent ceilings." Ceilings on some efficiency units have escalated to as high as \$3,000 on \$650-per-month apartments, and \$25,000 on \$950-per-month one-bedrooms. The result is that while rent increases for some tenants went up on November 1, 1998 by less than 3%, for others it was 300%! "There is simply no way that the market could remotely support these absurd rent ceilings," according to McGrath, "and their implementation is totally outrageous."

TENAC intends to seek a rollback in these abuses. By law, the landlords are given a generous guaranteed rate of return on their investments of 12% per year. Still they want more. TENAC can be reached at 202-628-3688, or P. O. Box 7237, DC zip 20044.

John Graves

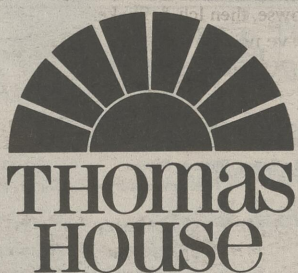
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Native American Writer Opens Arts Club Festival

By Kate McLeod

Leslie Marmon Silko, a Pueblo Laguna Indian who has received the five-year MacArthur Fellowship, will open the Arts Club's Literary Festival scheduled for May 4-6. This year's festival will celebrate the works of nine writers whose work addresses the complexities of belonging to two or more worlds.

On opening night, May 4, at 7:00 p.m., Silko will be joined by David Mura and Loida Martiza Perez. On May 5 Lori Tsang, praised in Village Voice for her poignant writing, will be joined by Terence Winch, winner of the American Book Award, and Vladimir Levchev, a widely published Bulgarian poet.

Rebecca Walker, author of



"To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face About Feminism," will be joined by Meri Nana-Ama Danquah, a native of Ghana, and Bharati Mukherjee, winner of the New York Times Notable Book of the Year Award, for the May 6 reading at 7:00 p.m.

All events are free; the Arts Club of Washington is located at 2017 I Street, N.W. For info call 331-7282

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Foggy Bottom Hist. Dist.

1970s, from p.1

loopholes in the law that allowed them to convert their property to hotels. Or they sold their buildings to George Washington University for a premium price!

Although the FBA supported rent control, in the long run this tactic merely accelerated the conversion process. Nearly a dozen apartment buildings, including the Channel House, converted to hotels or became dormitories. Transient traffic, especially buses that rarely turned off their engines, became an every night occurrence.

The FBA and the newly formed Advisory Neighborhood Commission petitioned the Zoning Commission to change the definition of a hotel from residential to commercial. Their efforts failed. By the end of the decade, rental units became as scarce as Mayor Marion Barry's face in the neighborhood. As FBA President Bob Charles, wrote:

"It is distressing because over the past several years there have been numerous transfers - all of which legally are allowed by the D.C. Zoning Commission to occur with the stroke of a pen by the owner. In other words, all the owner of a residential apartment building has to do is notify the Zoning Commission.

The building will change its status into a residential hotel, a condominium or cooperative. No public hearings are required. No weight is given to the tenants' association...

Since, by definition, overnight visitors are transients our neighborhood suffers doubly. First, that building was the long-term residence of many Foggy Bottom friends and neighbors - now lost to our community. Secondly, while our overnight guests may appreciate our neighborhood, ...they will contribute nothing to it. Neighborhood instability is the result."

The FBA always favored home rule. When it came about, one of its peculiar oddities was the creation of the ANCs. No one knew exactly how it would affect the neighborhood. Luckily for Foggy Bottom in the 1970s, ANC-2A and the FBA were firm allies in preserving the residential character of the neighborhood. In an important change, the FBA no longer led every fight in the neighborhood. It could now support a neighborhood entity that had legal standing before city government. City government had to listen to the ANCs and to give great weight to their recommendations. The

creation of the ANCs increased neighborhood activism as people like Anne Lomas, Hal Davitt and Marthlu Beldsoe easily passed between leadership positions in the FBA and ANC.

Parking, noise and traffic are not exciting issues. However, many FBA members worked many hours to educate city and federal officials of their importance. With the advent of jet travel out of National Airport, planes too often strayed over Foggy Bottom from their follow-the-river approach. The FBA was the first neighborhood association to get an FAA hearing to correct the matter. The FBA fought hard for residential parking stickers and Foggy Bottom was one of the first four neighborhoods to get them.

FBA members spent their vacation days on Capitol Hill almost every year to save our neighborhood fire and police stations. The increased traffic from buses going to newly converted hotels and trucks from construction sites, including the Metro, clogged Foggy Bottom residential streets. The FBA secured a bus ban on 25th and 26th Streets between H and K Streets.

Metro Noise Was Worth It

Some of the noise and traffic was worth it. Construction of the Metro system began in Foggy Bottom in 1969 and continued for eight years. Residents coped with huge wooden timbers that concealed excavation and provided temporary road surfaces. In 1977, Ceil Aptaker, a resident of the neighborhood for 39 years, and FBA president George (Bob Charles) Washington, officially opened the Foggy Bottom station.

Perhaps the greatest FBA accomplishment was something that never happened. There was tremendous pressure from suburban congressional delegations to build the "Three Sisters" bridge to link Arlington above Key Bridge with the Whitehurst Freeway. The ceaseless vigilance of members like Bill Buchanan and others helped to prevent this further intrusion upon the neighborhood.

Another coup came when the FBA secured from the National Park Service and D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation the excess land below 26th Street for a park. Although the FBA lamented the lack of children in the area, when the playground was built, children came, and dogs did too. The FBA could never under-

continued on p. 7

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Also 12 Noon Mass on Thursdays
Saturdays: MP 9:15; Mass: 9:30 am

Call for schedule of classes and special events

continued from p. 6

stand why dog owners continued to use the kids' playground for their dogs' dumps. That mystery continues today.

When the Channel House was sold and became the Intrigue Hotel, passions flamed anew in the neighborhood. Older FBA members were furious when the FBA Board supported the hotel's separate restaurant entrance and exterior cosmetic improvements. An embarrassed FBA reversed its position. There was a new leadership, but there was still the old guard. Nixon went to China, but in the FBA there was no détente for the Intrigue.

The FBA needed more than diplomacy when it came to dealing with George Washington University. As FBA member Jerome Eldridge commented in 1973:

"...GWU has demonstrated its contempt for the rights of others by wholesale destruction of homes and businesses. Witness the demolition of an entire city block from H Street to Pennsylvania Avenue and 19th to 20th. For education? No, for an office building with a 30-year lease to PEPCO. And the District tax assessor advises this property is tax exempt and the load thrown on other citizens..."

GWU is Commercial Developer

GWU had honed its development talent to an art. Legally, it took residential property, made it tax exempt and then built commercial buildings. Indirectly, Foggy Bottom citizens were financing their own destruction. Furthermore, by attracting tenants like PEPCO, The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, any "great weight" of the ANC and FBA became insignificant to the world class clout of GWU's tenants. As a result, the east end of Foggy Bottom where over 2000 citizens once lived became a corporate canyon devoid of any residential life. By the end of the decade, because of commercial encroachment of all kinds, Foggy Bottom's

population shrank from 14,500 to 11,000. And hundreds more housing units were still threatened.

The FBA could rarely stop the commercial juggernauts, but it could slow them down, control their size and try to minimize their impact. In the case of the IMF building, at 19th and H Streets, the FBA could not stop GWU from buying the property and developing it. However, FBA helped to reduce its size by 50%. And in a harbinger of a new tactic, three buildings on the block were deemed historically significant to save. The Ray House was preserved on site and the Lenthall Homes were moved to 21st and G Streets.

Later, in a stunning decision, the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital declared the property fronting Pennsylvania Avenue between 20th and 19th Streets, known as Red Lion Row, a category II landmark. The meaning was clear. Historic preservation was becoming important.

As the decade closed, then President of the FBA, Al Cottrell, summed up the problems not just between the FBA and GWU, but with all developers:

"Our principal concern has been the University as a land developer. Many of our members are so deeply disturbed about what has taken place over the years with respect to tearing down houses with varying degrees of historical interest, and the displacement of long-time and elderly residents, that we have been virtually unable to establish the type of working relationship that would be of mutual benefit to the university and association."

Greed and self-exaggerated needs were continually forcing good people into adversarial relationships. In the 1980s the FBA would witness how historic preservation, medical clinics and hotel development would further polarize the neighborhood.

St. Mary's Court Put On Line

A local chapter of an information professionals' society has donated a state-of-the-art computer and large monitor for the residents of St. Mary's Court. The group realized that senior groups have been slower to get access to the Internet, and decid-



ed to introduce equipment and training to interested Court residents. Members of the society installed the computer, borrowed and installed a laser printer, four volunteers provided technical support and training, and one volunteer used her own funds for a one-year subscription to an Internet service provider.

The trainers, who actually were more like coaches, took turns in helping residents learn by doing. They also assisted them to set up free Juno e-mail accounts. According to Trudi Hahn of the University of Maryland, one of the volunteers, "It has been a rewarding experience" and they are thrilled at the enthusiasm of and use by the residents of the Court. They can be seen happily exploring the reaches of the Internet and busily communicating via their own e-mail. One resident, Joan Robinson, related to the *News* her pleasure at playing bridge recently with a woman partner in Johannesburg and with Kanga-Dan, a bridge instructor in Melbourne, Australia. Court residents are grateful to the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Society for Information Science.



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Neighborhood Datebook

From Friday, April 23: Exhibition of "Foggy Bottom Views," painting by Bill D'Italia, in conjunction with the FBA 40th Anniversary Committee. Watergate Gallery, Watergate Mall, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. until June 19. Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 26: Foggy Bottom Association monthly meeting. Featured will be 40th Anniversary distinguished lecturer Phil W. Ogilvie, Washington historian, speaking on "Getting Along With Your Landlord When It's the Federal Government: A Local History." Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28: "Self-Defense: A Woman's Best Protection," Community Wellness Lecture, by Marty Langelan, Self-Defense Instructor, D. C. Rape Center. GW Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. For info or reservations call 1-888-449-3627. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 29 - Thursday, May 15: M.F.A. Spring Thesis Candidate Show, featuring works of art by GWU Master of Fine Arts degree candidates, Group I. The show will feature ceramics, painting, photography, sculpture, and visual communications. Dimock Gallery, Lisner Auditorium, 21st & H Streets, N.W. Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 30: Annual Solemn Mass of the Resurrection in memory of those who have died of HIV/AIDS. (See article in this issue.) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2430 K Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 4-Thursday, May 6: Literary Festival, featuring nine distinguished writers. (See article in this issue.) Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 5: "Goodbye Headaches," Community Wellness Lecture, by Perry Richardson, M.D., GW Neurological Institute. GW Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. For info or reservations call 1-888-449-3627. 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 8: Sousa National High School Honors Band, in concert with the U. S. Marine Band, "The President's Own." The honors band is composed of 100 outstanding high school band students representing all 50 states. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 9: Recital featuring Barry Crawford, flutist, performing classical and contemporary songs in a special tribute to mothers. St. Stephen Martyr Church, 2436 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Call 785-0982. 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12: Presentation by Ward 2 School Board member Westy Byrd, as part of IONA Senior Services Mid-day Program. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12: "Preventing Osteoporosis from One Generation to Another," Community Wellness Lecture, by James Katz, M.D. and Patience White, M.D., GW Department of Medicine-Division of Rheumatology. Presented for young as well as older women to develop strategies to combat bone loss. GW Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. For info or a reservation, call 1-888-449-3627. 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 17: Self-defense training by the Metropolitan Police Department, presented by IONA Senior Services. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A meeting, State Plaza Hotel, 2117 E Street, N.W. (enter on F Street). 7:00 p.m. **Note:** The ANC has a new phone number: 736-1775.

Thursday, May 21 - Thursday, June 4: M.F.A. Spring Thesis Candidate Show, Group II. (See Thursday, April 29.)

Sunday, May 23: "An Afternoon With Martha," discussion of the family life, politics and society in which Martha Washington lived. Mary Wiseman, Colonial Williamsburg character interpreter, plays the role of our first First Lady. For info and reservations (recommended), call 628-1776. \$5 fee. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26: "Laser Vision Correction: Is It For You?," Community Wellness Lecture, by James Slack, M.D., GW Department of Ophthalmology. GW Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. For info or reservations call 1-888-449-3627. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 27: Annual Spring Performance, young dancers and advanced students of the Washington Ballet, presenting classical and contemporary works. Phone 362-3606 for information. \$12; students \$6. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

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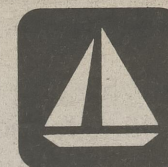
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NPS Brings Sailboats Back to Thompson's

Following a resolution adopted by the ANC and a letter from the Foggy Bottom Association, the National Park Service will begin to rent small sailboats at the Thompson Boat Center. The boats will be rented by Guest Services, Inc., the concessionaire, on a trial basis when the water warms above 50 degrees. Douglas D. Faris indicated that a "minimum of two small sailboats will be routinely available for public rental for use." Thompson's Boat Center is located near the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Rock Creek Parkway.

AIDS Mass Set at St. Paul's

In memory of those who have died of HIV/AIDS, the choir of the Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes will perform at the annual Solemn Mass of the Resurrection on Friday, April 30. The Mass will begin at 7:30 p.m., with the AIDS Vigil starting at 6:45 p.m. St. Paul's is located at 2430 K Street, N.W.

Dr. Haig Mardirosian will conduct the music of Tomas Luis de Victoria, Dr. Jeffrey Smith will serve as organist, and Canon R. Carter Echols of the Washington National Cathedral will preach.

Contributions will support the church's AIDS ministry; a reception in the church hall will follow the Mass.

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